

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

Related Applications

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S.S.N. 09/877,838, filed June 8, 2001 (now U.S. PreGrant Publication 2002/0034724), which is a continuation of U.S.S.N. 09/161,030 (now abandoned), which is a continuation-in-part of U.S.S.N. 08/855,378 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,136,586), which is a continuation-in-part of U.S.S.N. 08/705,045 (now abandoned), which is a continuation-in-part of U.S.S.N. 08/521,245 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,114,108), each of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 30, with the following amended paragraph:

Background:

In this study, we evaluated the efficacy of the INACTINE™ technology (aziridino compounds having (1) an aziridino moiety or a halo-hydrocarbon-amine moiety, and (2) two or more nitrogen atoms separated by hydrocarbon moieties) to inactivate *T. cruzi* in AS-1 diluted (15%) fresh human plasma as a prelude to determine efficacy in transfusion of blood contaminated with *T. cruzi*. For red blood cell concentrate (RBCC), the INACTINE™ process includes incubation of red blood cells (RBCs) with 0.1% (v/v) of ethyleneimine oligomer at 23°C for 24 hours followed by washing by a procedure optimized for the removal of ethyleneimine oligomer to the level of ≤50 ng/mL.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 21, with the following amended paragraph:

For inactivation in plasma, parasites (4 to 8 x 10⁶ organisms/mL) were treated at 23°C for various times and different concentrations of PEN110 (ethyleneimine oligomer solution), washed by centrifugation to remove residual drug, and resuspended in DMEM-0.1% BSA solution. *T. cruzi* treated or not treated with PEN110 (ethyleneimine oligomer) were used to infect Vero cells in 96-well microtiter plates. Infection was allowed to proceed for various

numbers of days, and it was ascertained in two ways. Infected monolayers were fixed and stained with DIFFQUICK (cell staining solution containing thiazine and eosin, Dade Behring, Deerfield, IL) and analyzed under a microscope for infected cells. More than 1500 cells were analyzed for each concentration of PEN110 (ethyleneimine oligomer) or time point. Infection was allowed to proceed through its full cell cycle, which ends with the release of swimming trypomastigotes. Treatment samples were incubated at 23°C for specified time with various concentrations of ethyleneimine oligomer added to the sample as neutral 20x stock in 0.25M NaH₂PO₄. Control samples were mock-treated with 0.25M sodium phosphate (pH 7.2) and incubated at 23°C for the same period of time as the treated samples. After the treatment, ethyleneimine oligomer was removed by three cycles of washing with centrifugation (2,000 rpm, 1615 x g, 4min.).